Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal information manager comprising:

a microprocessor;

memory operably connected to the microprocessor and storing a database;

a data input device operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to receive an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record mode and a dialog mode, in said record mode said dialog manager configured to examine said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it contains an explicit or an implicit data processing request, an explicit request being a request explicitly requested by a user and which is immediately passed to the microprocessor and an implicit request being a request which is implicitly specified by the user and which is queued and processed by the microprocessor in the background between explicit requests, in said dialog mode said dialog manager is configured to treat all requests as explicit data processing requests;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and

storing and retrieving data to/from said database, said information storage/retrieval

module handling implicit and explicit data processing requests specified by said dialog

manager, in said record mode said dialog manager module instructing the information

storage/retrieval module to store decoded text, excluding explicit data processing

requests, in said database memory; and

an output module converting text received from said dialog manager module into

speech and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request;

wherein said dialog manager passes implicit processing requests to said

information storage/retrieval module during periods of inactivity.

2. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein

said dialog manager module identifies an explicit data processing request during said

record mode by comparing said decoded text against a list of reserved words.

3. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein

said dialog manager module identifies an explicit data processing request during said

dialog mode by comparing said decoded text against a list of predefined data processing

requests, assigning a match score to each of said predefined data processing requests and

selecting said predefined data processing request having a highest matching score as said

explicit data processing request.

4. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 3, wherein

if said highest matching score is less than a threshold score said dialog manager module

passes an instruction to said output module to prompt the user to select a given data

processing request from among a selected number of said predefined data processing

requests.

5. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein

said information storage/retrieval module passes to said dialog manager module a

specified number of data records retrieved in response to said data processing request if a

number of retrieved data records is below a threshold number and otherwise passes

characteristic words selected from said retrieved data records, and said dialog manager

module instructs said output module to prompt the user to select a given said

characteristic word used refine the data processing request.

6. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, further

comprising:

a global word table containing a list of all of the words stored in the database; and

said dialog manager module examining decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches to a given said word in said global word table;

wherein a request to prompt the user for clarification is queued if the decoded text does not match any word in said global word table.

7. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, further comprising:

a local word table in said database memory;

said information storage/retrieval module stores atoms of data, each said atom having a unique identifier; and

said local word table containing a list of words contained in each atom of data and the number of times each word appears in a given atom; wherein if a number of atoms matching a data retrieval request exceeds a predetermined number, said dialog manager module prompts a user to select a given characteristic word from a list of characteristic words, said characteristic words being derived from the local word tables of atoms matching said data retrieval request, said selected characteristic word being appended to a search string of the data retrieval request, thereby reducing the number of atoms matching a data retrieval request.

8. (Original) The personal information manager according to claim 7, wherein said

characteristic words are derived by selecting a predetermined number of the most

frequently occurring words from the local word tables of the atoms matching a data

retrieval request, provided that that the selected word does not already appear in the

search string of the data retrieval request.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended)A personal information manager comprising:

    a microprocessor;

    a memory operably connected to the microprocessor and storing a database;

    a data input device operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to

receive an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

    a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record

mode and a dialog mode, in said record mode said dialog manager module configured to

examine said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it

contains an explicit data processing request, an explicit request being a request

immediately passed to the microprocessor for execution, in said dialog mode said dialog

manager module is configured to treat all requests as explicit data processing requests;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and

storing and retrieving data from said database, said information storage/retrieval module

handling explicit data processing requests specified by said dialog manager module, in

said record mode said dialog manager module instructing the information

storage/retrieval module to store decoded text, excluding explicit data processing

requests, in said memory; and

an output module converting text received from said dialog manager module into

speech and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request;

wherein said dialog manager module passes implicit processing requests to said

information storage/retrieval module during periods of inactivity.

11. (New) A personal information manager comprising:

a microprocessor;

a memory operably connected to the microprocessor and storing a database;

a microphone operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to receive

an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

a database storing decoded text, a queue of implicit processing requests, and a

table of command words;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and

storing and retrieving decoded text from said database,

a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record

mode and a dialog mode,

in said record mode, said dialog manager module comparing said decoded

text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches one of

the command words in said database:

if said decoded text matches a command then said dialog manager

module judges that the decoded text contains an explicit request, toggles

into the dialog mode and processes the explicit request,

otherwise, said dialog manager passes the decoded text to the

information storage/retrieval module for storage in said database;

in said dialog mode, said dialog manager module comparing said decoded

text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches one of

the command words in said database to determine whether the decoded text

contains an explicit request which request may include a request to toggle into

record mode and a data processing request;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and storing and retrieving data from said database in response to instructions from said dialog manager module; and

an output module converting text received from said dialog module into speech and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request.

12. (New) A personal information manager comprising:

a microprocessor;

memory operably connected to the microprocessor;

a data input device operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to receive an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

a database storing decoded text, a queue of implicit processing requests, and a table of explicit commands, said database stored in said memory;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and storing and retrieving decoded text from said database,

a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record mode and a dialog mode, said dialog manager comparing said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches one of the explicit commands in said database:

if said decoded text matches an explicit command in the table of

explicit commands then said dialog manager module toggles into the dialog

mode and immediately causes execution of the explicit command,

otherwise, said dialog manager toggles into the record mode and

passes the decoded text to the information storage/retrieval module for

storage in said database and said dialog manager module determines

whether the decoded text contains an implicit data processing request,

where an implicit processing request is implied from the decoded text, said

dialog manager storing implicit processing requests in the implicit

processing queue for processing by the microprocessor in the background;

and;

an output module converting text received from said dialog module into speech

and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request.

wherein said dialog manager module executes implicit processing requests queued

in said implicit processing queue during periods of inactivity.